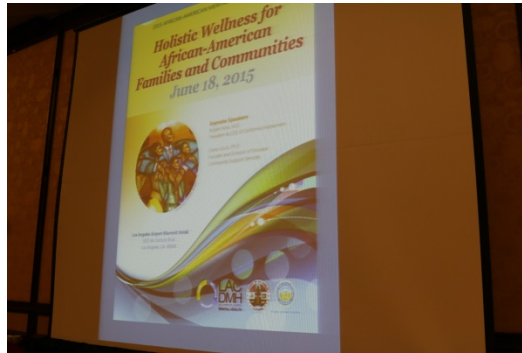


LACDMH AFRICAN-AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2015

By Kimberli Washington, Public Information Office



The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) presented the African-American Mental Health Conference on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at the Los Angeles Airport Marriot Hotel. This year's theme was "Holistic Wellness for African-American Families and Communities". Over 700 attendees, including staff, volunteers and vendors, joined together to participate in the event.



"The African-American Mental Health conference is hosted by the Department of Mental Health as a resource for clinicians, clients, health providers and family members to promote wellness and to help those who struggle with mental illness," said Mark Ridley-Thomas, LA County Supervisor, Second District.



The morning emcee was Stacy Williams, R.N., M.H.A. The event began with drummer and praise dance performances, an invocation by Pansy Washington, M.Div., M.S., and LACDMH's Shelli Weekes performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing". Welcome and opening remarks were given by LACDMH Director Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W., and Kedren Community MHC President/CEO John H. Griffith. The keynote speaker for the morning was Robert K. Ross, M.D., President/CEO for the California Endowment who spoke about "Trauma and Resiliency in our Young People".



photo courtesy of MC Harris

The afternoon emcee was Herman DeBose, Ph.D. A jazz ensemble and musical selections entertained the crowd during the lunch break. Awards were given to the following: *Founder's Award – Renee Woodruff, L.C.S.W.; The Mental Health Champion Award – Romalis Taylor, M.P.A.; Anna L. Smith Community Service Award – Eddie Lamon; Outstanding Effort and Community Service Award – Jim "The Hat" Whitener, Jacques Alexander and Reba Stevens.* The afternoon speaker was Cheryl Grills, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Loyola Marymount University. She spoke about "Holistic Wellness for African-American Families and Communities". The conference presented 10 morning and nine afternoon concurrent workshop sessions.



photos courtesy of MC Harris

The LACDMH African-American Mental Health Conference Planning committee consisted of Carlotta Childs Seagle, Angel Baker, Dorothy Banks, Terri Boykins, Doralee Bridges, Maurine V. Edwards, Darlesh K. Horn, James Jones, Martin Jones, Jr., Chandler Norton, Reba Stevens, Pansy Washington, Madonna Waters, Yolanda

Whittington, Karen Williams and Lucious Wilson. Art work was provided by Larry “Poncho” Brown and graphic design by Vienna To.

